

Mississippi and Fellow Gulf States Seeking Answers from BP

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Jackson, MS--Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood and his fellow Attorneys General in Gulf Coast states are seeking clarification from BP on its plans concerning the recent oil spill.

In a letter sent to BP officials today, the Attorneys General jointly asked BP to explain its commitment to pay "necessary and appropriate cleanup costs" and to outline how it will go about that.

The attorneys general are also asking Transocean, Halliburton and Cameron International to take the same stand as BP on paying claims.

"Although I am cautiously optimistic that the damage may not be as bad as some predictions, as Attorney General my job is to prepare for the worst," said Attorney General Hood. "We have already taken still photos, video, fish counts, bird counts, grass counts, and water samples. This way we can document before and after. We hope local businesses and families will preserve their costs and document their income losses."

In addition to the letters, Attorney General Jim Hood is hosting a meeting between the BP United States General Council and the other Gulf Coast State Attorneys General tomorrow.

"I want to make sure that I have a clear understanding with BP about how we are paid for all costs incurred by the State, local municipalities and governments and our citizens," said Attorney General Hood. "I have already contacted the affected state agencies, municipalities and counties and requested that they advise us of any questions they may have, so we can get them some answers."